**Irena Uss-Armoniene, piano**

Irena Uss-Armonienė is a laureate of the Government Culture and Art Prize of the Republic of Lithuania. The musician is a member of ARMONAS TRIO and ARMONAS-USS DUO

In 1977 the pianist graduated with honours from Lithuanian State Conservatoire.

During 1986-1988 shee worked as professor of Piano at the National Institute of Music in Algeria (L’Institut National de Musique d’Algérie).

Since 1989 Professor Irena Uss-Armoniene has been teaching at the Department of Accompaniment at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Since 2010 shee is the head of this Department.

The musician is a famous pianist and performer of chamber music. Shee has given numerous concerts in many countries of the European Union and also Canada, Russia, Belarus, and Algeria.

I. Uss-Armoniene has played with different performers, singers and instrumentalists from both Lithuania and abroad.

I. Uss-Armoniene has given concerts together with the State Vilnius String Quartet, Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, Kaunas Symphony and Chamber Orchestras under the baton of such conductors as J. Domarkas, M. Barkauskas and P. Berman. The pianist has taken part in multiple classical and contemporary music festivals in Lithuania, Russia, Poland, Canada and Germany, including the 3rd Cello Festival Kronberg dedicated to M. Rostropovich.

Professor has led master courses and seminars for Lied and chamber music in various higher institutions of music in Brussels, Helsinki, Lyon, Mannheim, Groningen, Malmö, Warsaw, Wrocław, Krakow, Riga, and Minsk. Moreover, Shee took part at *“European Liedforum”* in Berlin (2012, 2014), Vilnius (2013, Salzburg (2016), Vienna (2022), and in the *NordOpera + Lied* at Sibelius University of Music in Helsinki.

The accompaniment and Lied class led by Professor has over a 100 graduates, with several laureates of national and international competitions and 5 Doctors of Art among them. Shee participates as a jury member at various competitions in Germany, Poland and Lithuania.

Pianist Uss-Armoniene has always been an enthusiastic promoter of the Lithuanian music. Shee has performed over 50 world premieres of works by Lithuanian and foreign composers. In addition, shee has recorded over 150 opuses for Lithuanian and foreign radio stations and released eight CDs in various countries.

I. Uss-Armoniene has performed, edited and released a number of works for voice and piano, piano trio and other chamber ensembles by Lithuanian composers J. Andrejevas, V. Bagdonas, F. Bajoras, O. Balakauskas, V.Barkauskas, J.Bašinskas, Z. Bružaitė, J. Juozapaitis, J. Jurkūnas, V. Germanavičius, A.Kučinskas, B.Kutavičius, A. Šenderovas, R. Šileika, J. Širvinskas.

 She has compiled and edited sheet music series titled „*Lithuanian Chamber Vocal Music“.*